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Notes on the Genealogy  
of the Bethel, Vermont  
Wilson Family

by  
Harold F. Wilson

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Compiled by Harold F. Wilson, while in Bethel, Vermont, in August, 1948, and completed in his home in Pitman, New Jersey, November, 1948.

Material from: (1) James J. Wilson family Bible, notes taken by H.F.W. while convalescing at the M.L. Wilson Homestead in Bethel; (2) conversations with H.F.W.'s Aunt, Miss Susan E. Wilson, and with his Uncle, John J. Wilson; (3) data from two scrapbooks of James J. Wilson at the home on North Main Street, Bethel, just north of Christ Church; (4) letter from Mrs. Jennie Wilson Dustin, of Randolph, Vt., Nov., 1948; (5) material from H.F.W.'s father's Scrapbook (Guy Wilson's); (6) data from Charles Knowles Bolton, Scotch-Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America (Boston, 1910); information from Charles A. Hanna, The Scotch-Irish, Vol. II (New York, 1902); also from Osgood, American Colonies in the 18th Century, Vol. III for the Scotch-Irish background, and from Robt. P. Tristram Coffin, The Kennelbed, Cradle of Americans (New York, 1938), and from John Fiske, New France and New England (Boston, 1902), for the Merrymecting Bay episode.

## A. Introduction.

I. Two moves of our Wilson forebears had great influence on subsequent Wilson generations. Both were made with the thought of improving economic status (although the first move had strong religious motives as well).

- (a) The transplantation of our family from the north of Ireland to America brought a wholly new future to the Wilsons. Certainly, very little promise of good livelihood was offered new Belfast, at Newtownards, in County Down. From study of evidence, we cannot say for sure whether it was "Samuel Wilson, M.A." or "William Wilson" who was the husband of the "Jean Wilson" and father of the "4 children" who sought refuge in Boston, July, 1722, following the Indian attack on Merrymecting Bay in the Maine colony. But we do know that both "Samuel Wilson, M.A." and "William Wilson" came from the north of Ireland, and that "Samuel Wilson, M.A." (who, we think more likely was the husband of "Jean Wilson") definitely came from Newtownards, near Belfast, as is explained below.
- (b) The second move of great import was the transplantation of this branch of the Wilson family from the Barre, Massachusetts, area to Vermont and to Bethel. The reasons for this migration are explained in a later paragraph. We are glad this move was undertaken for it made the later generations Vermonters.

## II. The Scotch-Irish Background. (See Bolton and Osgood books noted above.)

Any understanding of the history of our family requires a knowledge of the situation in the north of Ireland which persuaded our forebear to move to the New World. Whether it was "Samuel Wilson, M.A." or "William Wilson," the same general conditions existed.

- (a) The move to the north of Ireland.

The Wilsons were probably members of the Scotch groups invited by James I to occupy confiscated Irish lands in Ulster. But during the century of their occupation of Ulster, their thrift and energy had battled with but moderate success against the burden of hostile laws and the ravages of wars. (Bolton, p. 4.)

- (b) Religious influences.

As early as 1636 the desire to emigrate from northern Ireland took firm hold on the people in towns near Belfast; one of the four leaders at this time was Rev. John McLellan, Presbyterian minister at Newtownards, (where 82 years later, Samuel Wilson lived.) These clergymen of the Presbyterian faith had become more and more dissatisfied with the Established Church (Anglican) and its order of worship. Some were suspended for non-conformity. (Bolton) Also, the payment of tithes for the support of the Established (Anglican) Church, the services of which the Presbyterians did not attend, was a continuous source of irritation (Osgood, p. 517) Under Charles II (in the 1660's), religious restrictions mounted. In Ulster, 61 Presbyterian ministers were ejected from their churches and curates were appointed to conduct Episcopal services. (Bolton, p. 60.) The death of Charles II (1685) brought a temporary subsidence of the fever of migration and no movement to New England took place for a few years. James II succeeded to the throne and with that came increase in the Roman Catholic influence, and the Protestant population of northern Ireland began to suffer. The defense of Derry (1689) is a well-known episode. King William relieved the Presbyterians with the passage of the Toleration Act (1689), but under Queen Anne (1702-1714), the Scotch-Irish became virtually

Pam 72-2675



outlaws, with the passage of the Test Act (1704). Their marriages were declared invalid and their chapels closed. They could not maintain schools nor hold offices above that of petty constable. (p. 15, p. 63, Bolton).

(c) The problem of a livelihood

Economic pressure exerted perhaps the strongest pressure in the migration from Ulster. The Scotch-Irish felt the evil effects of England's commercial policy, which included the prohibition of the importation into England from Ireland of all cattle, sheep, and swine, of beef, pork, bacon, butter, cheese, and mutton; the exclusion of Ireland from colonial trade and from the right to import from Europe except through England; and the suppression of the wool industry.

The Commercial Acts of 1698 encouraged the manufacture of linen (flax culture) but industrial depression brought distress from lack of work, which culminated in a situation that led to the great migration of 1718, in which our ancestor probably participated.

Many thrifty Scotch-Irish Protestant farmers, tenants of harsh landlords, were turned from the land they had brought into good condition (Bolton, p. 19). The farms of Ulster, it should be noted, were small, each having its field of potatoes. The soil was enriched by manure and lime and after the crop of potatoes had been gathered, the flax (for linen) was sown, often a bushel of seed by a family. Each farm had its bleaching green where the flax fibers were whitened in the sun. The drying season lasted for more than a year. (p. 49)

- (1) Flax growing (a main crop raised by the Wilson forebear, in all probability). When the seed had produced fields of flax, the women of the household kept down the weeds until the blue petals had opened and had, in turn, given way to ripening seed-pods. Then the plants were pulled or "plucked" in small handfuls, and "bogged". This latter process involved the placing of the flax plants in running water (the plants were held down by heavy stones) to make the fibers better in color. In due time, they were laid out in the open fields until a season's grass had grown about them and through them. Finally, they were gathered and dried in the open air, or over a fire.

The coarse brown stalks were then slowly drawn over an upright post or chair-back and beaten inch by inch. This was known as the "scutching" process. Next, the stalks were cleaned and split by rude combs of varying coarseness, and known as hackles.

This latter task was tiresome and dirty, and itinerant workmen usually did this part of the labor, going from farm to farm. The rough fibers were then subjected to many scaldings and dryings, until the bleaching greens began at last to appear white with the flax harvest. Then came the spinning of the yarn and the weaving of linen. Hand looms in those days produced a fine linen yarn as any that came from the mill, later. (Bolton, pp. 49-52.)

- (2) The linen industry had one unfortunate circumstance peculiar to all manufacture. Depending to a large extent upon foreign markets (especially the English market in those years), it had years of prosperity followed by periods of ruinous inactivity and the causes of these fluctuations, whether economic or political, lay wholly outside Ireland and beyond her control. When a period of depression was concurrent with the expiration of many leases (see next paragraph), the people emigrated in great numbers to America. Add to this fact the attempts of England to cripple the linen industry (which competed with her cloth manufactures) and we are not surprised that the desire to emigrate passed over the land like a fever. (Bolton, p. 55, p. 57).

- (3) Immediate factors for migration. (Fundamental causes have been discussed in the preceding paragraphs.) The immediate causes which finally may have persuaded either "Samuel Wilson, M.A." or "William Wilson" to leave Ulster must have included certain serious troubles then affecting the Scotch-Irish there.

A particular cause for emigration which became operative about 1718 arose from the increase of rents, sometimes to double or treble the former amounts. This increase was demanded by the landlords as the long leases which had been granted after the 1688 Revolution came to an end. (Osgood, III, p. 517).

The six years, moreover, between 1714 and 1719 were notable in Ireland for their insufficient rainfall. So long a period of injury to crops proved more and more discouraging not only to farmers but to weavers of flax who found food prices mounting. Furthermore, a destructive disease known as "rot" struck the sheep in 1716. Other immediate factors included severe frosts in Europe which further cut the supply of food. Finally, during the summer and spring of 1718 (the year of the large migration) "a slow and confluent small-pox" raged over Ulster in a malignant form. (Bolton, p. 43.)



### III. The transplantation of our Wilson forebears to New England.

#### (a) The objective.

Of special influence on later Wilson generations was the fact that it was to New England that either "Samuel Wilson, M.A." or "William Wilson" with his wife "Jean" came, and not to areas south and west of Philadelphia where many Scotch-Irish in the early 1720's began to settle and prosper perhaps better than those who had ventured to New England. In 1718-1719, however, the land in Pennsylvania had not been opened for Scotch-Irish settlements on favorable conditions, hence many had turned to New England where land was available on what was then the frontier. (Bolton, p. 59).

#### (b) Preparations.

In 1718, when Rev. William Boyd of Mocosquin in the valley of the River Bann (northeastern corner of Ulster, not far from Newtownards. The latter town is on an estuary of the Irish Sea, south and east of Belfast, and not in the Bann River valley. The Bann River flows north into the sea north and east of Londonderry) was about to sail for Massachusetts Bay. In addition to Rev. Mr. Boyd, other ministers in the area were interested in the proposal to migrate to New England.

Of real importance to Wilson genealogy was the petition for lands for Scotch-Irish settlers carried by Rev. Mr. Boyd to present to Governor Shute of New England. Included in the names of this petition (engrossed on a sheet of parchment 28 inches square and now deposited with the New Hampshire State Historical Society at Concord) were the signatures of "William Wilson" and of "Samuel Wilson, M.A." (Bolton, p. 102.)

There was much to be done by our Wilson forebears before removal from the north of Ireland. Ships had to be chartered; a supply of food, clothing, and bedding had to be assembled; household goods had to be packed for the long voyage. The lease on the land, the farm animals, and the heavier tools must be sold. Partings must have been hard, unless friends hoped to follow soon.

In leaving their churches, the emigrants did not fail to procure testimonials of good standing to be used (they hoped) in former fresh religious ties in New England. In fact, the William Caldwell (who eventually settled in the Rutland-Barre, Mass., area) brought a testimonial with him to Massachusetts signed by "Jas. Woodside, Jr., Minister" and dated "Aprile 9, 1718." It stated "The bearer, William Caldwell, his wife. . . with his children, being designed to go to New England in America. . . . Those are therefore to testify they leave us without scandal, lived with us soberly and inoffensively, and may be admitted to Church privileges." (Bolton, p. 131) This William Caldwell may have befriended young Samuel Wilson (our known ancestor, born 1708, died Barre, Mass., 1756) when Samuel's (possible) mother, Jean Wilson, re-married (after losing her husband in the Merrymeeting Bay episode) and moved to Londonderry, New Hampshire.)

#### (c) The arrival.

In the summer of 1718 came the first evidence of the so-called large migration when the first of the Scotch-Irish emigrant ships arrived in Boston Harbor; the second, which came August 4, brought settlers who occupied what is now Londonderry, N.H. Others followed. In fact, at one time, the Boston citizens had the unprecedented sight of five ships from Ireland lying at anchor in Boston Harbor (Bolton, p. 141). On Sept. 1st, an emigrant ship, "The Maccalum" arrived from Londonderry, Ulster, bringing on her "20 odd familys" and among the passengers was probably a Scotch-Irish Schoolmaster to whom Cotton Mather refers (Sept. 6th entry to journal) as here from Ireland and wanting employment. (There is a slight possibility it might have been "Samuel Wilson, M.A."). The Puritans did not want the Scotch-Irish to stay in Boston, but preferred to have them as buffers against the Indians. Governor Shute told them that land on the frontier was available and on the 8th of September, "The Maccalum" left Boston for the territory known as the "Eastern Lands" at the mouth of the Kennebec River in Maine. (On its way home, "The Maccalum" took on a load of barrel staves near what is now Kittery, Maine, for sale in Ireland.) (Bolton, p. 142.)

It should be noted that the New England people at this time, already a century out of England, were essentially English. Their speech and habits, their polity and their ideals were not in harmony with the Scotch character developed on Irish soil. When the early settlers were in the minority, they tolerated a Presbyterian minister, but Presbyterianism did not thrive in New England, where English stock and Congregational polity were powerful. (Bolton, p. 118.)

#### (d) Merrymeeting Bay.

Robert P. Tristram Coffin in his "The Kennebec, the Cradle of Americans," (Boston, 1937) extols the beauties of the Bay (p. 211): "Some people say Merrymeeting Bay gets its name from the meeting of five rivers that unite to form this sweet inland sea; the Kennebec and the Androscoggin being the two larger ones. "But any man will tell you that the name comes from the fact that the bay is one of the purlieus of Paradise; it borders on Eden all the way and a man can fool the breath of the angels all over its blue waters." (Mr. Coffin's home is on the Bay.)

The newcomers in 1719-1720 settled at Merrymeeting Bay (where the Androscoggin joins the Kennebec, a few miles north and east of what is now Portland, Me.) There is a strong possibility that the first of our Wilson forebears was a



member of this Merrymeeting Bay group, for later, in July, 1722, included in the group which fled from Indian attacks on Merrymeeting Bay were "Joan Wilson and 4 children," already mentioned. (Bolton, p. 231.) Also in the Merrymeeting Bay colony was James McFarland (p. 235); ~~and~~ This indicates another possible contact between Merrymeeting Bay and the Worcester-Barre (Mass.) Scotch-Irish settlers for various McFarlands were there: 1733, Andrew McFarland; Daniel McFarland, died Worcester, 1738 (p. 186), and John McFarland (p. 187). In Barre, Mass., one of the McFarlands possibly might have befriended one of the children of the widow Joan Wilson. Samuel Wilson (known as our ancestor, 1708-1756) may have been Joan's son, as is explained below. Another possible contact between Merrymeeting Bay and the Worcester-Barre area is also evident. There was a man named Caldwell (Christian name not given) who settled in 1718 in the Merrymeeting Bay (Bolton, p. 219) (and p. 233) who may be the same man, or a relative, who later settled in the Barre area; he may have known "Joan Wilson and 4 children" and might have taken "Samuel Wilson" to Barre with him following the attack by the Indians on the Merrymeeting Bay settlement.

Among those who sought refuge in Boston in 1722, along with "Joan Wilson and 4 children" were "Andrew McFadden, wife and 6 children" (Bolton, p. 231). Earlier, in 1718, Andrew McFadden (p. 144) and wife went in the same vessel, "The Maccalum" to the "eastern country" (See deposition of David Dunning of Brunswick, Maine, given in 1767; Dunning was on the same vessel with McFadden (Bolton, p. 144). Jane McFadden, the wife, stated that they moved to the Kennebec River and up Merrymeeting Bay to a place called Cathance (now Bowdoinham) and here we trace the company that came over on "The Maccalum" (See Cyprian Southack's Map of 1720 with its "Irish New settlement" on it; map is shown on p. 216 of Bolton's book; also see map of where Cathance was, on p. 204, which shows Merrymeeting Bay.) Hence "Joan Wilson and 4 children" (her husband probably did not die until 1721 or 1722 (before July 1722 at least) were in all likelihood in the group with the McFaddens since they fled the Maine settlement and sought refuge in Boston at the same time, in July, 1722 (see Bolton, pp. 230-231). The settlers at the mouth of the Kennebec left an inscription (p. 215) which states that in the years 1718, 1719, and 1720, five hundred emigrants from Ireland had come to settle; and noted also

"Kennebec River very long,  
Strong Tydes with all its branches  
Trade mostly is as yet Lumber  
Fish small matter. Came from  
Kingdom of Ireland with  
in Three Year: 1720, five Hundred  
Inhabitants and made new Settlements  
for Farming and Lumber." (Inscription found on land near  
Maquoit Bay, near Merrymeeting Bay.)

Other migrants came to the Kennebec River territory following the advent of "The Maccalum" passengers. Many of these must have been friends of those who came in earlier. The story of the ill-fortunes of the Merrymeeting Bay settlers is given in a later section. It seems probable that the husband of "Joan Wilson" (whether he was Samuel or William) was either killed by the Indians or died of disease. The latter is possible, for, as Bolton, author of The Scotch-Irish Pioneers, states, "Many fell sick under the strain of life in the Maine woods." (p. 227.)

#### IV. The Worcester-Barre Scotch-Irish pioneers.

Since our first definitely known ancestor, Samuel Wilson (1708-1756) settled in the Rutland district of what is now Barre (north and west of Worcester), it is pertinent to investigate the beginnings of that settlement. As already pointed out, there may have been some contact between the Maine Scotch-Irish settlement and the ones in the Worcester section (Caldwell and McFarland names); moreover, there is some possibility, as will be explained below, that Samuel Wilson (1708-1756) may have been the son of Joan Wilson, if the influence of the continuation of the same Christian name from one generation to another is considered plausible evidence. We do know that Samuel Wilson, our ancestor, lived in the Rutland District and is buried in the Scotch-Irish cemetery in Barre, near the grave of his father-in-law, Aaron Holden; and we do know that this Samuel Wilson named one of his sons "Samuel" and one of his daughters, "Joan".

##### (a) Move to Worcester.

In 1718, the first Scotch-Irish came to Worcester, which was then a position on the Massachusetts frontier, although it lay but 40 miles from Boston. (It had been deserted in King Philip's War, 1675, and again in Queen Anne's War, 1702, and re-settled at the end of the war, in 1713.) The Scotch-Irish set out from Boston laden with blankets and tools, flax-wheels and cradles, and followed the sandy path westward, dotted at intervals with garrison houses. They came to Worcester to act as a buffer against the Indians, but instead of welcome, they received a surly greeting from the few inhabitants who turned out to meet them. At the head of the Scotch-Irish settlers was the Rev. Edward Fitzgerald from Londonderry, Ulster. Log cabins were built and by autumn, at least 50 families had settled in Worcester, doubling the population of the town (Bolton, p. 180). Within a year, the construction of a Presbyterian



church was started in the town, but then occurred an incident which brought the movement of a number of settlers out of Worcester and on into the Rutland District (later Barre), where Samuel Wilson came to live.

(b) The move to the Rutland-Barre District.

The original English settlers of Worcester were ignorant of the religious views of the Scotch-Irish, and, urged by a desire to force all the inhabitants of the town to attend and support the Puritan Congregational Church, the rougher element in town came together one night and completely destroyed the frame of the Presbyterian church. It was said "the best people in town" were present at the destruction. The upshot of this episode was the removal of many settlers north and west of Worcester to a tract known as the "settlers' part of the town". By 1722, the year that Jean Wilson and 4 children fled from Maine to Boston, forty or fifty Scotch-Irish families had gathered in this territory.

Included in a listing in 1733 of the seat-holders of a church in the Worcester area were Andrew McFarland (possibly of the McFarland family of the Maine settlement) and William Caldwell (another name appearing in the roster of the Maine group). In 1739, in the establishment of the nearby town of Polham, Mass., listed among the proprietors was Andrew McFarland.

It is evident from descriptions given in subsequent depositions (p. 188 of Bolton) that the Scotch-Irish settlers built log cabins and cleared spaces for planting, and that two families often had to live together for a while under the same roof. Moreover, it appears that there were also a number of young men (one of whom may have been Samuel Wilson born in 1708) as well as young women, who went from place to place in search of employment with friendly compatriots. Some of them eventually married and settled in the Rutland District, as did Samuel Wilson.

This concludes our introductory explanatory notes. We shall now turn to the second part of this Wilson genealogy and investigate the Wilson family.

B. Genealogy.

1. Samuel Wilson or William Wilson?

The first Wilson, of our branch, to come to America was in all likelihood either "Samuel Wilson, M.A." or "William Wilson". Both Christian names, Samuel and William, appear in later generations, but the name Samuel continued with greater frequency and more consistency. Both Samuel Wilson and William Wilson are signers of a petition to Gov. Samuel Shute, "Governour of New England" in 1718 (petition now hangs in rooms of New Hampshire State Historical Society, Concord). The men who signed this petition were "Inhabitants of ye North of Ireland" and they ask Gov. Shute "suitable incouragement" to their "heartly Inclinations to Transport ourselves to that . . . renowned Plantation." The petition was signed March 26, 1718. Others signing included William Caldwell (later of Barre, Mass.); also Robert Hendry (Henry) and William Hendry (Henry) who, too, later migrated to Barre. This is to be borne in mind for later, a Samuel Wilson (1708-1756) also settled there, following the second marriage of his (probable) mother, Jean, and her removal to Londonderry, New Hampshire. (Jean might have taken her three younger children with her to Londonderry; 70 families had settled there, and in 1719, a town grant had been obtained; Londonderry, with its Scotch-Irish, soon became the center of the linen industry in New England.) (Osgood, III, 518.)

We know that there was a "Samuel Wilson, M.A." who was a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church at Newtownards, County Down, Ireland, south and east of Belfast (see map in Bolton, p. 102.) We know also that a William Wilson from Clarye, County Suffolk, England, settled at Lifford or Liffer, in County Donegal, North Ireland, and that some of those who signed the petition to Governor Shute came from County Donegal.

A letter from the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland (address Room 19, Church House, Fishwick Place, Belfast), dated April 25, 1932 (a copy of which is in Jay Wilson's Scrapbook) states (the letter was written to my aunt, Miss Susan E. Wilson of Bethel) that in the Synod Records of Ulster a Samuel Wilson of Newtownards attended in 1713 a Synod Meeting along with his minister, Rev. John Mairs of Newtownards. Also, in reference to the "M.A." on Samuel Wilson's signature in the petition, there was a Samuel Wilson enrolled as a student in Glasgow University, who was classified as a "Scoto-Hibernus" (Scotch-Irish); he was there on February 27, 1702, according to the rolls. Another Samuel Wilson, classified also as Scotch-Irish, was on the rolls of Glasgow University in 1716.

We know that our definitely known ancestor, Samuel Wilson of Barre was born in 1708 (according to date on his gravestone in Barre, Mass.). This, of course, was before the migration (1718-1719); hence, he may have been born in Newtownards near Belfast, if his father was "Samuel Wilson, M.A." And,



if so, it is probable that of the two Samuel Wilsons noted to be students at Glasgow University, our possible ancestor was the one there in 1702 and not the one there in 1716.

Since the qualifications for church elder, as may have been the case of Samuel Wilson of Newtownards, County Down, (who was Elder there in 1713), depended more on merit than on age, he seems eligible in considering the parentage of our known ancestor, Samuel Wilson, who died in Barre, Mass., in 1756.

## 2. The Merrymeeting Bay colony.

In 1718, many Scotch-Irish migrants came to Boston; they were urged to settle on the frontier and some went to Maine, others to Londonderry, N.H., and about 200 to the Worcester area. In nearly every case, they were compelled to settle on the frontiers of the province to provide the Puritans of the older communities a buffer against attacks from the Indians and the French in Canada. (Hanna, II, 25.)

A group of these immigrants reached Boston Aug. 4, 1718; they were referred to by a contemporary as a "parcel of Irish". They had imagined they had come to a land of liberty, but soon learned that they would not be admitted to citizenship in any of the Puritan colonies without first connecting themselves with the state church (Congregational.) Gov. Shute told them he would let them settle on the frontier and establish new communities of their own. The Governor granted them a township right, covering an area 12 miles square, which they were privileged to occupy at such suitable place in the wilderness as they might select. They were informed by the Governor there was good land along Casco Bay (just east of Merrymeeting Bay) in what was Maine. (Hanna, II, 17).

In 1719-1720, a second Scotch-Irish migration to New England occurred, and, as noted in the above Introduction, several hundred families were landed on the shores of the Kennebec on Merrymeeting Bay. (Hanna, II, 24) Here, it is probable Joan Wilson's husband, along with Jean and the four children, settled. (Merrymeeting Bay is a few miles northeast of Casco Bay, where Portland is situated; and is just north of Bath, Me.) The location, however, proved to be an exposed one: the situation at that time needs amplification.

A number of years earlier, in 1713, by the Treaty of Utrecht (end of Queen Anne's War between the French and the English), the English gained Acadia and renamed it Nova Scotia. The English maintained that this cession included New Brunswick and Maine; the French said that the River Kennebec was the easternmost boundary of what was then New England. The French wanted to keep control of the Kennebec for it connected by a network of streams and lakelets with the Chaudiere River which falls into the St. Lawrence opposite the city of Quebec; here was a possible route to Quebec that the French wished to keep from the English (Benedict Arnold used the route later, during the American Revolution, to attack Quebec.) The French, therefore, fostered relations with the Algonquin Indian tribes along the Kennebec, mostly Abenakis. One of the Abenaki tribes were the Norridgewocks who had a stockade 75 miles up the Kennebec from its mouth at Merrymeeting Bay. These Indians had been baptized by Father Sebastian Rale and Rale had charge over them from 1693 to his assassination in 1724 (by the English.)

When the Scotch-Irish migrants pushed on into Merrymeeting Bay trouble ensued. By 1720, it was claimed they had turned the Bay area into a continuous farm. (R.P.T. Coffin, p. 66.) The advance alarmed the Indians, who claimed the English and Scotch-Irish were encroaching on their lands. The French now took advantage of the Indians' feelings and incited them to attack; the Norridgewocks the French found were too inclined to peace, so Father Rale sent to Montreal and caused parties of warriors from the more warlike Hurons and Ottawas to be sent to the Kennebec River stockade at Norridgewocks. There they engaged in a "frantic war dance" and "carried away the Norridgewocks in a frenzy of bloodthirsty enthusiasm." (Fiske, p. 241.) This was in 1721, when Joan Wilson, 4 children, and husband, were probably settled at Merrymeeting Bay. (In 1721-22, came a series of bloody attacks from the Indians and French, which resulted in the retreat of many survivors to Boston. Finally, in 1723, Gov. Shute was succeeded by Gov. Dummer, in Boston, and by 1724, (2 years after Joan Wilson had gone to Boston), an expedition ascended the Kennebec and destroyed the Norridgewock village and killed Father Rale. (Fiske, p. 244.)

According to a letter (Woodside letter) written to His Majesty's Council (See Bolton, p. 225), "In the month of July, 1722, the Inhabitants were surprized by the Indians who came down in great Numbers to murder Your Majesty's good Subjects there." The Indians "kill'd all the Cattel, destroying all the Moveables & Provisions." It is supposed, therefore, that the husband of Joan Wilson died either in the Indian attack or succumbed under the strain of wilderness life. This was probably either William Wilson or Samuel Wilson, M.A.



the widow, Jean Wilson, and her 4 children, now sought refuge, along with many other Scotch-Irish, in Boston. According to the Boston records of July, 1722, "from the Eastward" (and evidently from the Merrymeeting Bay area) there came many refugees. Among those listed were "Joan Wilson and 4 children" (Bolton, p. 231). The records also show that on July 28, 1722, "Jean Wilson and 4 children" suffered the customary formality of being "warned out of town" so as not to let them become public charges. (Bolton, p. 229, p. 231.) And in the list given in Bolton, p. 238, we do know for sure that "Jean Wilson and 4 children" were members of the Merrymeeting Bay colony.

Jean Wilson, after a short time in Boston, married a man named Cochran and settled in Londonderry, N.H. (See Jay Wilson's Scrapbook No. 1, p. 138.) However, it is believed that the oldest son might not have gone on to Londonderry, but rather might have joined members of the Scotch-Irish settlement in the Barre, Mass.; section. It has been noted above, in the Introduction, that William Caldwell and the two Hendrys went to Barre, Mass., section. The Samuel Wilson we know as our ancestor was born in 1708; at the time Jean Wilson went to Londonderry, N.H., following her re-marriage, this Samuel Wilson would have been 15 years old (1723). It is evident, from later material, that this Samuel Wilson was a close friend of the Hendry (Henry) family. Two of Samuel Wilson's daughters, at noted below, married sons of the Hendry of that time.

### 3. Samuel Wilson, 1708-1756.

We know that he was born in 1708, probably in the north of Ireland and we know that Samuel Wilson, M.A., was living in Newtownards, County Down, in 1713 and that the latter signed the petition to Gov. Shute in 1718, when this Samuel Wilson (of Barre) was 10 years old. Two bits of evidence tie this Samuel Wilson of Barre to Samuel Wilson, M.A. and to Jean Wilson, as has been noted in the Introduction: (1) his Christian name was Samuel and he himself had a son named Samuel, although it should be noted, his oldest son was named William. (2) This Samuel Wilson of Barre had a daughter named Jean, which might indicate that this Samuel Wilson's mother was the Jean Wilson of Merrymeeting Bay.

This Samuel Wilson of Barre married Elizabeth Tomson (Thompson) on Dec. 25, 1733. He died in Barre, in 1756, and is buried near Aaron Holden's grave: his grandson, Samuel Wilson, married Aaron Holden's daughter, Rachel Holden.) Samuel Wilson who died 1756 succumbed to a form of dysentery ("bloody flux") which swept over the area that year; he was 48 years old at the time. It is believed that Elizabeth Thompson, whom he married in Leicester, Mass., was his second wife, for his daughter, Margaret Wilson (who married William Hendry (Henry) in Barre, Apr. 17, 1760) was born in 1727. The first child born to Elizabeth Thompson and Samuel Wilson (married Dec. 25, 1733) was William Wilson ("Willson"), who was born on Great Farm No. 4, Rutland District, Barre, on Sept. 12, 1734.) Other children of Samuel included Elizabeth, Martha, Mary (who married Adam Henry) Samuel and Jean. In 1745, Samuel purchased from Paul Brintnal of Sudbury, one-sixth part of Great Farm No. 18, in the Rutland District near Barre.

According to the Registry of Deeds, Worcester (see Jay Wilson's Scrapbook No. 2, p. 139), William Willson always signed his name with two "l's"; so did his brother Samuel, and his sister, Jean. Evidently his mother, Elizabeth Thompson, could not write, for she signed her name with a mark. Incidentally, in the marriage records of Leicester, Mass., on the record of the license of Samuel Wilson and Elizabeth Thompson (Tomson), the latter is referred to as "wid. in int." (widow in intorment or widow in intentions?). This would indicate that Samuel's wife's maiden name was not Thompson (Tomson.)

### 4. The move to Vermont.

William Wilson ("Willson") was born in Barre, Mass., in 1734, and died in Bethel, Vt., in 1798, being buried in Fairview Cemetery on the road to Randolph. The eldest son of Samuel Wilson of Barre, he was 21 years old when his father died in Barre. William helped keep the family going on the farm in Barre and did not marry until he was 32 years old. In 1766, he married Elizabeth Houghton, who had been born, May 9, 1748 at North Salem, Mass. She died at Bethel, Vt., Jan. 26, 1821, and is also buried in Fairview Cemetery.

To them were born the following children: Samuel, the eldest (Note: here again is an illustration of the carrying-on of the tradition to name a male child Samuel.) Samuel was born, March 12, 1768: he is our ancestor. He married Rachel Holden, daughter of Aaron. Other children of William included Bette, born, July 6, 1770, who married Wm. Burbank of Bethel; Rebecca, born 1772, who married Stephen Carpenter of Sharon, Vt.; Martha, born 1774, who married a Mr. Kingsloy of Barre, Vt.; William, born Mar. 8, 1775 (here again appears the Christian name of William), who married Eunice Jefferson of Rochester, Vt.; Hannah, born Feb. 16, 1780, who married Benjamin Preston; and Joseph, born, Mar. 1783, who married Sabra Chadwick. (See Jay Wilson's scrapbook No. 1, p. 121; also item in Boston Evening Transcript. Sept. 16, 1932.)



the close of the American Revolution in 1783. On Aug. 20, 1787, according to the Registry of Deeds, William Willson and wife signed a deed at Worcester, selling their interest in the farm. The following March, they moved to Bethel. It seems evident to the writer (H.F.W.) that William did not find a good livelihood on the Barre farm of his father, Samuel. The bad depression during the middle 1780's, brought financial worries to many citizens and particularly to the farmers in the Worcester, Mass., area. It will be noted that it was in this section of the country that the famed Shay's Rebellion broke out in 1786, which culminated in efforts to prevent, at the Worcester County Courthouse, the foreclosure of various farmers' mortgages in and around Worcester (which included the Barre, Mass., section.)

It is strongly possible that William Wilson was grievously affected by the current hard times (which caused inflation of the paper currency before the ratification of the U.S. Federal Constitution in 1788). From conversation with the writer's aunt, Miss Susan E. Wilson of Bethel (August, 1948), who, in turn gained the information from a lady living on the old Samuel Wilson farm in Barre, Mass., it is believed that William Wilson left the farm and moved into the village prior to his departure for the then frontier up in Vermont. News came down the Connecticut River valley of better lands up in Vermont, to be procured cheaply. Therefore, it seems evident, with the rupture of economic life during and after Shay's Rebellion (1786), that William Wilson, then 52 years old, decided to make a new try on the frontier, a motive similar to the one, perhaps, that pushed our ancestor from the north of Ireland to the New World.

Note is made here that many of those farmers involved in Shay's Rebellion sought new lands to the north and west of the Worcester area, up in the Connecticut River valley, and particularly for some of them, in Vermont. Thus it seems that William Wilson joined in the general movement to the frontier in Vermont. He was not alone in this, for other members of his family participated. His sister, Margaret Wilson, who married Wm. Henry (Hendry) Apr. 17, 1760 (William Henry was a Captain in the American Revolution) and his other sister, Mary Wilson, who married Adam Henry (Hendry) July 3, 1766 (Adam Henry was also a Captain in the Rev'n'y, and participated in the Battle of Bennington), left the Barre, Mass., area with their families at about this same time and some of the Henry family eventually settled in the Chester-Cavendish section of Vermont (See Guy Wilson's memo in Jay Wilson's Scrapbook No. 1, p. 126 and p. 127.)

In March, 1788, William Wilson, accompanied by his oldest son, Samuel (then 20 years old) made his way up the Connecticut and the White Rivers to Bethel, Vermont. The first farm that he staked out was in the upper Camp Brook section of Bethel (H.F.W.'s father, Guy Wilson, once pointed out to the writer the collar hole (remnants of stones); drive up Camp Brook, turn left at the Rogers' Place (old mill) onto the Camp Brook-Lilliesville Horse Road, and the collar hole was to the right of the road in a meadow above the Rogers' place.)

According to the town records of Bethel (Town Clerk's Office) in 1795, William Wilson aided largely by his son Samuel (William Wilson was by then so old--- he died in 1798--- that son Samuel must have done much of the work) received \$50, a large sum in those days, for laying out a road from above the present Jessie Spaulding place (just north of Bethel Village on the Randolph Road) to the left off the main highway, up through the Davis Place and over into Camp Brook and then on to the Rochester Town Line. In March, 1795, the road was surveyed, commencing "at a point 27 rods north of Moose Horn Brook (near the Jessie Spaulding place), running thence up the hill by the Charles Davis place and thence on to the Rochester Town Line. (See Cox, History of Bethel, p. 11.) (In 1807, Bethel petitioned the St. Legislature to be allowed to lay a special tax of 3¢ per acre "for the purpose of making a road up Camp Brook to the Rochester line." (Cox, p. 11.). The hill farms, in many areas, were preferred to valley farms in those early days, the reasons for which are given in the present writer's doctoral thesis: The Hill Country of Northern New England, 1790-1930, pp. 124-132.)

William Wilson died of dropsy in 1793, and was the first Wilson to be buried in what is now Bethel, at Fairview Cemetery. (Note: the earlier Wilsons had not yet become Episcopalians).

5. Samuel Wilson of Bethel, born March 12, 1768, in Barre, Mass. He came to Bethel with his father, William Willson (Wilson) and once established there, following 1788, he returned to Barre, Mass., and married on Jan. 6, 1793, Rachel Holden, daughter of Aaron Holden (We recall that the writer's father, Guy Wilson, for years had the Holden coat of arms on the wall in the front hall at our house opposite from the Bethel Moving Picture Theatre: the motto read: "I will work but I will not compete", which may be interpreted more ways than one.) (Aaron Holden, Rachel's father, lived and died in Barre, Mass. Our uncle, John J. Wilson (first house north of Christ Church, Bethel village) now has Aaron's Revolutionary War sword (see Appendix for Aaron's Rev'y War record), as well as the old clock belonging to Samuel Wilson and his wife, Rachel Holden. Aaron Holden was born Medfield, Mass.,



on August 8, 1738; at one time, Aaron was Deputy Sheriff for Worcester County.

Samuel Wilson and his wife, Rachel Holden, settled on what is now known as the Aaron Wilson place (no longer occupied), which is up the steep hill above what is now the Henry Stafford farm (first brick house north of Bethel, on Randolph road. Brick house built by order of Samuel Wilson's son, Jay Wilson). Henry Stafford now owns (1948) the Aaron Wilson place, a steep hill road winding up hill through the pasture to Aaron's place. The writer recalls going there in his boyhood days to attend Guild (Epis'l) picnics.

In 1817, records show that Samuel Wilson owned a cow, costing \$60, in the  $\frac{1}{2}$  First Proprietors' Meeting House in Bethel (later the Universalist Church and now the Federated (Brick) Church.) This Samuel Wilson had a son, born 1813, named Samuel (who died without issue in 1832), again evidence of the continuation of the name Samuel. The oldest son, however, was named Rufus, and it is to that branch of the family that the next section is devoted. (Other children were Nancy, Amanda, Hiram b. Oct. 3, 1799, see below, Harriet, b. 1802, unmar., died, 1873, and James Jay, b. Mar. 17, 1801, see below)

6. Rufus Wilson, son (eldest) of Samuel and Rachel Holden Wilson, born Bethel, Mar. 27, 1797. Farmer, lived north of Bethel village. Married Prudence Colburn in 1827. Children: Livinia, b. Mar. 7, 1828, unmarried; Sybil Amanda, b., July 18, 1831, mar. Orvis Rogers; Eliza, b. Sept. 26, 1833, mar. Wm. Rogers; Nancy, b. Dec. 19, 1841, mar. Dennis Shaw; Aaron Holden, b. Nov. 20, 1845, unmar., stayed on farm; Rufus Sullivan, b. Apr. 6, 1839: This Rufus Sullivan Wilson mar. Hanna Rogers (died 1911)

Their son: Rufus, b. 1879 (Rufus Roy), b. Aug. 18, 1870, mar. Grace Butler, Sp'f'd, Mass., and later, Miss Rogers (now (1948) Mrs. Farr of Westfield, Mass.) By first wife, Rufus had daughter, Beyerly Wilson, who is married and lives in N.Y. City.

The oldest son of Rufus and Prudence Colburn was Samuel, b. July 29, 1836. (continuance of Christian name, Samuel). Samuel married Eleanor, daughter of Charles Davis, who was born (Eleanor) Jan. 14, 1843 and who died July 17, 1945 at age of 102 years. (The writer used to visit her when she lived with her daughter, Fanny, on the Wilbur Dartt Farm, Lympus.) Samuel and Eleanor had a farm on Rochester Mt., at the Four Corners. Their descendants are:

- a. Samuel Rufus, b. Sept. 3, 1865, at Bethel. Migrated west at early age, finally settling in Ft. Collins, Colorado (Agricultural School). On Mar. 4, 1902, he married Edna Bortis ~~of New York City~~; they have 2 children: Lucy Eleanor, b. July 19, 1907, she married Fred Parrie, and they have 3 children, Margaret, Grace, and Albert; they live in Saratoga, Wyoming. The other child was Richard Andrew, born Sept. 18, 1912; served in World War II, stationed for some time in Aleutian Islands (where he met his distant cousin from Bethel, Vt., Felix Wilson); upon his discharge he married and purchased a 3,000 acre ranch, 26 miles from Winifred, in northern Montana, which is his address. No children, as of 1948.
- b. Lucy E., b. Nov. 7, 1868, d. Apr. 22, 1944, buried Keene, N.H. Married J. Frank Tucker: 3 children: Florence A., b. June 18, 1887, (who married Carl Chamberlain and has 3 children, Vera, Chas., and Ernest); Julius S. b. Apr. 11, 1891, married Florence Stephens. They have 4 children. Also K. Hazel, b. June 30, 1894, married Geo. Rowe and had 5 children. Living in Keene, N.H.
- c. Mary P. b. Jan. 19, 1871. Lives in Randolph with daughter. Married Delbert Haradan, 1891, Bethel: 3 children: Nina, b. Mar. 14, 1892, who married Newell Tilton, 1912 and they have Isabelle M., Myrtle, and Otis. Ervill H., b. Mar. 7, 1910, unmarried. Lawrence H., b. Dec. 5, 1898, married Gladys Dustin; live on farm near East Randolph, no children. Myrtle I. married Axel Hall, Randolph. Isabelle Tilton married Kenneth Norton, died 1941; one child Dorrene, lives with grandparents (Tiltons) in Randolph. Otis, (Tilton) married in army of occupation in Germany; now living in Randolph. Not married (1948).
- d. Jennie K. b. Mar. 3, 1873. Mar. Nathaniel A. Dustin, Nov. 15, 1892; had one son, Clifford N., b. Bethel, Oct. 4, 1897. Clifford mar. Alice Carpenter, Aug. 4, 1923, at Putnam, Conn. Had five children, Donald, b. Feb. 7, 1925; served W. War II 3 yrs. Action in Ger'y. He married Roxxy Snyder and they have one child, Robin Lynne, b. July 18, 1947; living in Randolph and working with father who operates a grain store. Other children: Robt., b. Sept. 29, 1926, in Navy during War; now (1948) at Middlebury College; Marcia, b. Dec. 5, 1927, now in Boston (Occupational Therapy); Carol, b. 1939, still in Grades in Randolph. Jennie K. Wilson Dustin lives in Randolph (1948.)
- e. Charles W. b. Oct. 17, 1876. Married Elden Pembor: lived for many years on Rochester Mt. Farm; now live in Rochester. No ch'n.



- 10
- f. Fannie G., b. Sept. 15, 1878. Bethel. Mar. Wilbur Dartt Apr. 30, 1902. Three children: Burns (married Ethel Rota of Barnard) who has 4 children (Burns, Jr., John, and \_\_\_\_\_ and Dola) Store in Bethel Village. Ralph Dartt, unmar. lives with Lee Ward family on Locust Creek; Gertrude, married Lee Ward, Barnard: 6 children: Eleanor, Vernley, Leona, Vivian, Victor, and James. Fannie is a widow and lives with Lee Ward family.
- g. Frank M. b. Apr. 22, 1881. D. Aug. 21 1937, Bethel. Married Blanche Gleason: Apr. 2, 1903: 2 children: Maria (Marie) Eleanor, who married Geo. Giroux and lives in Feeding Hills, Mass., no children; and Blanche Ethel who married John W. Miller of Bethel; one son, John Wesley Miller III. Live 39 Crest St., Springfield, Mass. Frank married secondly Blanche Ripley, of Bethel, and one child survives, Helen.
- h. Alma L., b. May, 27, 1884. Bethel. Mar. Fried Olmstead, Apr. 20, 1904. Five ch'n: Eleanor (who married Max Colby of Woodstock and had 2 ch'n: Evan and Rebecca; Eleanor died at Rebecca's birth; Rebecca married John Farmer of Bethel (who used to be Paul Wilson's helper) and they have one daughter, Cynthia Jean, b. Oct. 30, 1948. Harley married Helen Washburn and they have 6 children (Woodstock); Olin D. married Doris Rogers; 2 ch'n, Duane and Elissa; they live on hill road to Lilliesville. Winnifred married Bernard Whittier and they have daughter, Shirley. Frederick married Lillian Stoddard; he served in W. War. II.
7. Hiram Wilson, 2nd oldest son of Samuel and Rachel Holden Wilson (brother of the Rufus mentioned under Section 6) was born Oct. 3, 1799. Married Arispa Neff, Dec. 1826: children, Hiram, b. Oct. 5, 1827; Rachel, b. Feb. 2, 1836; (married Frank Strong) Alvin, b. 1837; Don, b. 1839 (killed Civil War); Sarah, b. 1841; Milton, b. 1845; August, b. 1847, Ellen b. 1851, and Julius, born Mary 30, 1830. This Julius (Bethel farmer) married Josephine L. Sargent, July 13, 1859. Ch'n: Carrie, b. 1863; Don, b. 1867 (unmarried: farm on hill road to Sanders farm); and Hugh Clinton, b. 1879. (1911) Hugh Clinton Wilson married Cora Hazzard: (farm Christian Hill); Cora is still (1948) on the farm: they had 3 children: ~~1867/1867/1867~~ Rodman (married, lives on Don Wilson farm, children) Don Milton b. Bethel, July 24, 1917 Rachel (married: lives Bethel?) b. Apr. 19, 1915 Hugh died Bethel, Sept. 30, 1923 (milk route) (Rodman born Feb. 7, 1913.)
8. James Jay Wilson (called Jay Wilson): 3rd oldest son of Samuel and Rachel Holden Wilson: born Mar. 17, 1801. (Groat grandfather of present writer.) Born on Aaron Wilson place on hill above the present Stafford farm. He was probably named after John Jay, but his Christian name was James, the middle name Jay (Rachel Holden's grandfather was named James-Holden.) (John Jay was Justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1789-1795.) The Parish Records of Christ Church, Bethel village, indicate his first name was James; he was on the parish list 1821-1835, but was not baptized or confirmed until 1851 (this was after the Bethel village Christ Church was built (1847); before that, the Epis'l Church was the so-called Old Church (built 1824) halfway between Bethel and Randolph.

Jay Wilson (James Jay Wilson) married Laura Child in \_\_\_\_\_; Laura Child was born on a farm in Rochester Hollow; her father, Daniel Child, surveyor, moved from Rochester to the Finley Bridge area of Bethel and built the farmhouse on what is now the Pearl Savage farm which adjoined the Jay Wilson farm (now the Henry Stafford place). Pearl Savage (1948) told Aunt Susan Wilson that the house on the (now unoccupied) Aaron Wilson farm has the same type of architecture as that of the old built by Daniel Child.

Laura Child's grandmother was Mercy Chaso (who married Stephen Child (1749-1831) whose son was Daniel Child (1779-1853). (For note on Stephen Child, see Appendix II, below). Here enters the Chase connection into the Wilson family (another Chase connection came to Guy Wilson through his mother, Jane Flynn). The name of Chase was kept in later generations: Charles Chaso Wilson, son of James J. Wilson, and Charles' son, Charles Chaso. Also Richard Chaso Wilson, son of Harold F. Wilson of Pitman, N.J.). Mercy Chaso (1755-1835) was the daughter of Dudley Chaso (1750-1814) and here enters the Episcopalian influence into the Wilson family (cf. Bishop Philander Chaso); Laura Child was an Episcopalian. It is understood that Jay Wilson had a pew in the Brick Church in Bethel Village, but following his marriage to Laura Child, he probably attended the Old Church.

Bishop Philander Chaso was a brother of Mercy Chaso (Laura's grandmother); he graduated from Dartmouth about 1796, came to Bethel to teach and as lay reader, was the first person to conduct services regularly at the Epis'l Church; later, he represented Bethel at the Diocesan Convention; he later became Bishop of Ohio (founded Kenyon College there) and later, Bishop of Illinois, and also Presid-



ing Bishop of the Epis'n Church. He brought up his nephew, Salmon Portland Chaso (of Cornish, N.H.) who was Sec'y of the Treas'y under President Lincoln and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; his daughter, Kato Chase Sprague, was a famed Washington hostess.

The writer's uncle, John J. Wilson (North Main St., Bethel) was 12 years old when his grandfather, Jay Wilson, died. Uncle John recalls: "Among the interesting recollections concerning Jay Wilson are: 1st, that he helped his intended wife, Laura Child, to get an advanced education at Troy Conference Academy, an unusual thing over 100 years ago, and this enabled her to aid the education of her son, James Jay Wilson (H.F.W.'s paternal grandfather). 2nd, he brought from his farm and set out the pines which now rear 100 feet in front of Christ Church, Bethel village. 3rd, when Bishop Hopkins was raising money for the establishment of Bishop Hopkins Hall, Rock Point, Burlington, Jay Wilson contributed \$100, a good sum in those days. Aside from farming, Jay Wilson bought and sold lands extensively and ~~is~~ is said to have had more deeds recorded under his name than any other resident of Bethel. (H.F.W. has noted this when studying the General Index of Bethel Land Records when his father, Guy Wilson, was Town Clerk of Bethel.) Jay Wilson was also a merchant and dealt extensively in cattle. He was a religious man, insisting that family meals be commenced with the blessing. Physically, he resembled in different ways, both brother March and myself (i.e., John Wilson). He was six feet in height and weighed over 200 pounds. He did when I was 12 years old." (John W. Wilson.)

Jay Wilson after his married lived on the Morse farm (nearest Finley Bridge, in white house on Randolph Road where Camp Brock road enters Randolph Road). There, the writer's paternal grandfather, James J. Wilson, was born in 1831, and also, Mary Wilson, who married Mr. Parsons (Ky.) and died in Louisiana. Within a few years, possibly because of the threat from the flood of 1830 (ragged down Third Branch of White River and damaged Jay's farm), Jay Wilson had constructed for him the well-proportioned brick house now owned by Henry Stafford, situated on a higher location than the Morse farmhouse. Uncle John told present writer that Jay Wilson had waded out (in 1830) of his farmhouse and found the water above his hips.

Still later, Jay Wilson built for his mother, Rachel Holden Wilson, the frame house up on the plateau above the present Henry Stafford Farm; there he brought his aging mother down from the Aaron Wilson farm (where Jay's brother Samuel farmed). Later, as Rachel Holden Wilson grew older, Jay's two sisters, Amanda Wilson (teacher, spinster) and Harriet Wilson (practical nurse, spinster) came to live with their mother and care for her. (Harriet is buried in the Old Church cemetery, next to her niece, Harriet (Jay Wilson's spinster daughter.)

Still later, in 1854, Jay Wilson, with his wife and two children, James J. and Harriet (Mary had left), moved to Bethel village and bought the brick house on hill going up to Church Street. This house is situated now under the present Overpass Bridge but was in a nicer location when the Covered Bridge over the Branch was in existence (See H.F.W.'s reminiscences of this Covered Bridge in Bethel Courier, July, 1945). Sister Harriet drew an interesting pencil sketch of the rear of this brick house, as seen from the bank of the Branch. This sketch is at present in the possession of Miss Susan Wilson in the Wilson Homestead.)

Jay Wilson was partner with Lyman Child (Laura Wilson's younger brother) in a meat market in what is the Child Block (at left of entrance to Overpass Bridge). The northern part of this block was the meat-market; the southern part was a grocery store and above the grocery store was the law office (his first one) of James J. Wilson (H.F.W.'s grandfather). (H.F.W.'s father, Guy Wilson, ran for a while a lending library there, helped by his brother, John, who took care of the wood fires.) Jay Wilson died in 1885 at the home of his son, James J. Wilson (now the M.L. Wilson Homestead); he and his wife, Laura Child, are buried in Fairview Cemetery.

9. James Jay Wilson (H.F.W.'s paternal grandfather), son of Jay Wilson and Laura Child, was born at Morse farm near Finley Bridge, May 16, 1831. He moved to the Brick house (Stafford farm) and in 1854, with his father to the house in Bethel village (lived there 1854-1858). In the middle 1850's, he began to court Jane Flynn who lived in brick house on knoll just east of the easterly end of Finley Bridge (known as the Curtis farm.) Jane Flynn was the daughter of Paul Flynn (whose name was carried by writer's brother, Paul Flynn Wilson, and by Paul's son's Herbert's child, Paul Flynn, born Oct. 1948.)

Data on Flynn's: (from Cox, History of Bethel) :

Jane Flynn daughter of Olivia Smith and Paul Flynn.

Olivia Smith mar. Paul Flynn, June 1, 1820; she was born Dec. 2, 1795 and died, Caldwellwater, Mich., Jan 26, 1878. Her father was Benjamin Smith, one of the Proprietors of Bethel whose name appears in its Charter. Benjamin Smith was born in Cornish, N.H., Dec. 6, 1753,



and married Lois Chaso, second daughter of Dudley Chaso (she was the sister of Mercy Chaso who married Stephen Child, whose daughter, Laura, married J. Jay Wilson!) Lois Chaso was born Cornish, N.H., Aug. 19, 1756, and died Bethel, Jan. 4, 1832. Benjamin Smith and Lois Chaso Smith came to Bethel in early part of 1780 and settled on farm (now the 3rd farm north of the Old Church on road to Randolph) given them by Dudley Chaso, original proprietor. Farm was then a wilderness. Here was born Asa Smith (first white child born in Bethel--in log cabin on meadow near Third Branch of White River (only three families in Bethel at that time). Because of Indian threats (during Revolution: cf. Burning of Royalton), Dudley Chaso came from Cornish to take his daughter home: no roads at that time: Lois (then an expectant mother) could not ride behind her father on a pillion; after birth of Asa, she was taken down to the stockade in Bethel Village (Fort Fortitudo) where she remained for some time until after the threat had passed. Asa Smith married Unity Richmond of Bethel, Apr. 13, 1823, and one daughter, Lois Smith was born Feb. 17, 1827. After the writer's father died (Jane Flynn), Lois Smith became closely attached to him; when Lois Smith died, she left her money (about \$10,000) for the upkeep of the Old Church and the cemetery in the rear of the church.

Jane Flynn was a firm Episcopalian and taught in a parish school conducted under the sponsorship of Rev. Mr. Swett. (At the old rectory, North Main Street, white house on right hand side of street, at top of "Dugway"). H.F.W. has Jane Flynn's diaries and especially interesting is the one for 1857, when she frequently mentions calls from James Wilson and family "sings" with James participating. (Rev. Josiah Swett was rector of Christ Church, Bethel, from 1847 to 1864; he named his son, "Paul Flynn Swett", and the name still continues in the Swett family, now living in New Jersey.) Jane's sister moved west, eventually to Coldwater, Mich. Jane went west to visit her in 1858 (early in 1858); Jane had been "courted" by one of the Ainsworth boys, also. (Ainsworths then lived on what is now the Sanders farm). James Wilson followed Jane Flynn to her sister's home, and they were married at Oberlin, Ohio, on Nov. 1, 1858 by a minister named the Rev. Bethel Claxton (See Wilson Family Bible, in M.L. Wilson Homestead.) Earlier, James Wilson had studied law under August P. Hunton (grandfather of Mary Stickney Branliere) and had been admitted to the bar in May, 1858, when he established an office in Bethel. He always lived in Bethel except for a short absence in his youth when he taught in the South (explained below.)

The first home of Jane Flynn and James Wilson, in Bethel village, was the house (1st one) east of the Brick Church (called the Oscar Shaw house), just on the hill above where his father, Jay Wilson, lived. Later, they moved to the house (white) at top of "Dugway" on North Main Street, on left hand side of the road going north, just across from what was then the Epis'l Rectory (known, 1948, as the McCullough house). Two factors influenced this move: it was opposite the Rectory and it was on the road out of Bethel toward the Paul Flynn farm near Finley Bridge (at that time, North Main Street was on the main road to Randolph.) Here, was born H.F.W.'s father, Guy Wilson. Jane Flynn died of tuberculosis when Guy Wilson was not quite four years old: she died Apr. 17, 1868, and was buried at the Old Church cemetery. Her husband was later buried there and they were the first Wilsons of our branch of the family to rest there.

Guy Wilson (official name, James Guy Wilson) was born July 11, 1864. Attended school in Bethel and secondary school in Randolph; graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College in 1886. Married Abbie May Fisher, daughter of Deacon Edwin Fisher and Emeline Noble Putnam; Bethel, Aug. 29, 1889 (just 48 years before H.F.W.'s marriage to Beq.) Guy Wilson admitted to bar; later became insurance agent and town clerk and surveyor; Abbie died in 1934 and Guy in 1936. Both are buried in Old Church cemetery. Three children:

Gladys May, b. Oct. 29, 1890 (graduated Middlebury College, 1914) married Robert Edgar Bundy of Camp Brook ( " " " ), 1917. One daughter, adopted: Doris Bundy, who married John Aprilliano, in 1947. They have two children, Robert John and Gail. Living in Bethel.

Paul Flynn, b. Jan. 26, 1892. Graduated Dartmouth, 1914. Service in World War I; injured; married, 1920, Eleanor Joslin (whom he met at: Uncle March's house in Randolph), of Wollesley (married at "The Larches", East Blackstone). One son: Herbert Joslin Wilson, born Bethel, 1921. Graduated Harvard Pre-Med, and now (1948) in third year of Tufts Medical School. Herbert in 9th Air Force, England, World War II: Married, 1945 (at Newport, Isle of Wight, England) Lillian Osborne from Newport, Isle of Wight. Three children: Frances, b. May, 1947, at Cambridge, Mass.; and twins, Jocelyn Wilson and Paul Flynn Wilson, born Oct. 21, 1948, at Boston Lying-In Hospital. Paul Flynn Wilson (b. 1892) died on V-J Day, August, 1945, at Veterans Hospital, White River Junction following many years of brave living under onslaught of arthritis. He is buried beside his parents in Old Church Cemetery.

Harold Fisher Wilson, b. Dec. 22, 1903. Whitecomb High School, 1922; Univ. of Vt., 1926, Phi Beta Kappa. Taught History and English



at Wooster School for Boys, Danbury, Conn., 1926-1927. Harvard Graduate School (History major), 1927-1930; Instructor in History, St. Stephen's College (now Bard), Annandale-on-Hudson (then an adjunct of Columbia), 1930-1932; Instructor in History, Liberal Arts College, Columbia University, N.Y. City, 1932-1933 (taking place of Charles Cole --who is now President of Amherst-- while he was away on year's leave of absence; Instruct in History and Contemporary Civilization, Canal Zone Junior College, Balboa, C.Z., 1933-1935. Instructor at New Jersey State Teachers College, Glassboro, N.J. 1935-1943; head of Social Science Department at same place, 1943- to present. Married Beatrice Leone Herberg (Univ. of Vt., 1926, Phi Beta Kappa), daughter of George Michael and Anna Risch Herberg, in St. Paul's Church, Aug. 29, 1929 (Burlington). Two children: Barbara Anna Wilson, b., Woodbury, N.J., Jan. 27, 1936; now in 8th Grade in Pitman, N.J., Junior High School (flautist in Pitman High School Band); and Richard Chase Wilson, b. Woodbury, N.J., Jan. 31, 1939, now in (1948) Fourth Grade at Demonstration School at State Teachers College, Glassboro.

Following the death of Jane Flynn, James J. Wilson married, on Aug. 5, 1869, Mary Laurette McCoy, in Montpelier, Vt., with her father, the Rev. Amos D. McCoy officiating at the Episcopal Church. The McCoy's had moved from Louisiana (via New York) to Montpelier probably in 1868, coming there for the consecration of Christ Church, Montpelier. James Wilson had already met and known the McCoy's in 1852, when he went South to teach and to visit the grave of his sister, Mary Frances Wilson, who had died Jan. 31, 1852.

Mary Frances Wilson, eldest daughter of Jay Wilson and Laura Child, when about 21 left Bethel to teach in Kentucky. There she met Fred J. Parsons and married him; he died in Kentucky and later, Mary went on to New Orleans and thence to Alexandria, La., where she taught school. She was taken ill and died there, and was buried by her rector, the Rev. Amos D. McCoy (father of Mary Laurette Wilson), of the Church of St. James in Alexandria. Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery across the Red River from Alexandria, in Pineville, La. It was while her brother, James J. Wilson was on a trip to Alexandria in 1852 to visit her grave that he met the McCoy's for the first time; it was said that he held Mary Laurette (then four years old) on his knees while in Alexandria. To Mary Laurette McCoy and James J. Wilson there were born thirteen children, as follows:

- (a) March McCoy, b. Aug. 24, 1870. Died Oct. 1932. Mar. Lulu Dickenson, Laconia, N.H., Oct. 1, 1895 (following his graduation from Univ. of Vt.) Lawyer, Randolph. Three children: Hope, b., 1899. d., 1901. Faith, b. Sept. 1897. and Mary Helen, b., 1904. Latter mar. Stanley Chamberlin of Randolph, 1924. They have three boys, oldest Stanley, Edward, and \_\_\_\_\_. Living with Mary Helen is her mother, Lulu, at Chamberlin Home in Randolph.
- (b) John James Wilson. B. Bethel, ~~1881~~ Dec. 15, 1873. Univ. of Vt., graduated, 1895. Mar. Evelyn Lennore Haley, Dec. 27, 1898. Children: James Jay (whose Scrapbook H.F.W. has been using for some of this material), b. Aug. 24, 1900; graduated Norwich Univ., M.A. in History at Harvard Univ. Died, 1943; John Guy, b. Aug. 24, 1901. Graduated West Point; died t.b., Dec. 6, 1929, Lt., U.S. Army. Elizabeth Haley, b. Apr. 16, 1904; graduated Univ. of Vt., 1926. Now Mrs. Charles Montebello, Natick, Mass. Daniel McCoy, b. Oct. 19, 1905. Graduated West Point; now Lt. Col., in U.S. Army. Married Hannah Law of Miami, Fla., Dec. 12, 1934, has two children: Thomas Haley, b., Virginia, Aug. 18, 1939 and Penelope Law, b. California, Apr. 12, 1943. Evelyn Wilson, b. \_\_\_\_\_, married Howard Perry of Bethel \_\_\_\_\_, one child "Buster", b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) Robert Child Wilson, b. Bethel, July 18, 1875. Univ. of Vt. Married Sarah Rhett of Charleston, S.C., at Shanghai, China, Sept. 6, 1904 (Robert a missionary at Zangzok); Sarah Rhett was born Oct. 14, 1872, in Columbia, S.C., the daughter of John Taylor Rhett and Hannah McCord. They had five children: Louisa M., b. Aug. 24, 1905, Mokanshan, China. Mar. Read Hagar, New York City, Mar. 29, 1935, who died 1943; children: Charles, b., 1937 and \_\_\_\_\_ b. 1939. Robert Child; 2nd child of Robert and Sarah Rhett, b. Soochow, China, Aug. 14, 1910, now lives in Chicago; John Rhett, b. Aug. 14, 1910, in Bethel, Vt., attended St. Stephen's College; Hugh Chase, b. May 18, 1912, Soochow China, who graduated from Univ. of Vt., Phi Beta Kappa; and David McCord, b. June 25, 1914, at Changsu, Kiangsu, China. Married Edith \_\_\_\_\_; lives N.Y. City, attending Engineering School of Columbia Univ., one child, b. 1943 ?
- (d) Hugh D. Wilson, b. Bethel, 1881. Univ. of Vt. Mar. Anna Harty. Died 1904. one child, Geraldine, b., 1903, died 1908. Anna Harty Wilson for years taught in Gt. Barrington, Mass.
- (e) Charles Chase Wilson, b. Bethel, 1883. Univ. of Vt., Rhodes Scholar, entered ministry, as did his brother Robert. Mar. Mary DeForest Clark; one child, Mary, b., Dec. 15, 1917, who married Malcolm Seymour of Cohasset and has three children. First wife of Charles died 1917 and later he married Harriet Cordiney (who died 1943) who had 4 children: Harriet, Mildred, Caroline, and Charles Chase, Jr., latter b. 1931.



- (f) Susan E. Wilson, b. Sept. 19, 1877. For many years Secretary at St.-Paul's Cathedral in Boston. Now living at M.L.Wilson Homestead, Bethel.
- (g) Mary L. Wilson ("Dear" as she was called), b. Feb 29, 1872. Married Christopher Riley of Rochester. One daughter, Ruth Riley, b. \_\_\_\_\_, who married Roger Chagnon of Nashua, N.H., and who has two children, Robert, b. \_\_\_\_\_ and Nancy b. \_\_\_\_\_. Mary, Ruth's mother, died \_\_\_\_\_ and is buried at the Old Church Cemetery. Ruth is now (1948) living at Delray Beach, Fla., winters and on Nantucket Island, Mass., summers.
- (h.) Richard D. Wilson., b. Nov. 10, 1879. Univ. of Vt., engineer. Mar. Frances Sanford, \_\_\_\_\_. One daughter, Katherine, who married \_\_\_\_\_ and has two children; now living in Los Angeles, Calif.
- (i) Joannio L., born Sept. 16, 1885. Married John Hancock Taylor of South Carolina, who is now (1948) minister at Federated Church, Sandwich, on Cape Cod. They have three children, Jean, who married \_\_\_\_\_ and has child \_\_\_\_\_; John Hancock, and Mary \_\_\_\_\_.
- (j) Amy Anita Wilson, b. Dec. 27, 1887. Univ. of Vt. M.A., Conn'd; Univ. Taught at Goucher College, Baltimore and at National Cathedral School, Washington, D.C. Now at M.L.Wilson Homestead, Bethel.
- (k) James Herbert Wilson, b. Oct. 10, 1889. Died, Charleston, S.C., 1937. Univ. of Vt., Rhodes Scholar, Oxford. Lt., in World War I. Professor of French at Univ. of Wisc., Madison (rather, an instructor, there); at St. Stephen's College, Annandale-on-Hudson, and at Southwestern Univ., Memphis, Tenn., and finally, at the Citadel, Charleston, S. C. Buried, Old Church Cemetery.
- (l) Joseph Felix Wilson, b. Mar. 14, 1891. Married Phoebe Skinner of Westfield, N.Y. Children: Joseph Felix, b. Aug. 2, 1916, now married and living in Georgia; Phoebe Jane, b. Mar. 30, 1918, now married and living in \_\_\_\_\_; and Susan E. b. June 29, 1922, married (1946) \_\_\_\_\_ Anderson, of N.Y. City. Joseph Felix now living in Montpelier, and Phoebe in Bethel.
- (m) Lois Laurotte Wilson, b. Jan. 27, 1893. Married George Hamil of Bethel. Two children, George, Jr. and Mary McCoy. George Jr. married Charlotte Winship, S. Royalton; one daughter. Mary McCoy married Woodrow Nyott (Sp'd, Vt.) and has one son, Duane, who now lives in Bethel. Lois's Laurotte and Geo. Hamil now live in M.L.Wilson Homestead, Bethel.

Appendix A: Revolutionary War Service of Capt. Aaron Holden, father of Rachel Holden and grandfather of J. Jay Wilson. (Copy from letter in Jay's Scrapbook, No. 1, pp. 115-116.)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Office of the Secretary.

Aaron Holden name appears:

1. In order on Major Barber, dated Cambridge, Mass., June 23, 1775, for cartridge boxes for his company, Col. Jno. Brewer's regiment, to be deliver to said Holden, Sergeant. Said cartridge boxes redeipted for by him (Vol. 73, p. 11.)
2. Appears among list dated July 16, 1775, of men in service in main guard under Col. L. Baldwin, at Prospect Hill. Rank, Sergeant. Vol. 58, p. 33, file 22.
3. Appears with rank of Sergeant on muster roll of Capt. John Black's company, Col. Brewer's regiment, Aug. 1, 1775. Time of enlistment, Ap. 20, 1775, Time of service 3 months, 18 days. Town to which soldier belonged, Hutchinson (now Barre). Vol. 14, p. 10.
4. Appears with rank of Sergeant on company return (probably Oct. 1775) of (late) Capt. John Black's company. Col. Brewer's regiment. From Hutchinson (now Barre); also given, New Rutland. Vol. 56, p. 36.
5. Appears among signatures to an order for bounty or its equivalent in money due for Eight Months' service in 1775, in company lately commanded by Capt. John Black, dated Prospect Hill, Oct. 26, 1775. (Vol. 57, file 4.)
6. Appears in petition signed b Holden and others belong to Black's company, Col. Brewer's regiment, asking allowance for articles lost in battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. Said Holden claimed compensation for loss of a sword. Certificate dated Hutchinson (now Barre) Apr. 28, 1776, signed by Capt. Black, certifies to correctness of statements. Amounts allowed by resolve of May 10, 1776. Vol. 70, pp. 123-124.
7. Appears with rank of 2nd Lieutenant on muster roll of Capt. Haynes' (3rd) company, Col. Asa Whitcomb's regiment, dated camp at Ticonderoga, Nov. 27, 1776. # Term of enlistment during war, as appears by endorsement. Reported re-engaged Nov. 14, as 2nd Lieutenant in Capt. Reed's company, Col. Alden's regiment, but to continued in Col. Whitcomb's regiment until Dec. 31, 1776. (Vol. 47, p. 190).
8. Appears in list dated Barre, Dec. 29, 1777, of men raised to serve in Continental Army from 7th Worcester regiment, as returned by Capt. Benjamin Nye and Capt. William Henry. From Barre. Capt. Reed's company. Term, during war. (Vol. 42, p. 22)
9. Appears with rank of Lieutenant in Continental Army pay accounts of Col. Brooks's regiment, for service for Jan. 1, 1777 to Dec. 31, 1779. Reported taken prisoner Nov. 11, 1778 (Vol. 18, p. 261.)
10. Appears with grade of 1st Lieutenant on a return (year not given) of field and staff officers of Capt. John Reed's company, Col. Ichabod Alden's regiment. Residence, New Rutland. Vol. 11, p. 22.



11. Appears with rank of Capt. on Continental Army pay accounts of said Holden's company, Col. Brook's regiment, for service Jan. 1 to Dec. 21, 1779. Reported prisoner. Vol. 19, part I, p. 63.
  12. Appears in list of officers entitled to promotion in Lt.-Col. J. Brook's (7th) regiment, dated Camp, Sept. 9, 1780. Said Holden entitled to Captaincy vice Lane. Date of vacancy, Oct. 18, 1779. Ordered in Council, Sept. 16, 1780 (Mass.) That said officers be commissioned. Reported commissioned, Sept. 16 (?), 1780. Mass. Archives, Vol. 146, p. 560½.
  13. Appears with rank of Capt. on returns of effectives of Lt.-Col. J. Brooks' (7th) regiment, Oct. 16-Dec. 28, 1780, dated Camp Totoway, Camp Huttis, and Camp near West Point. Reported prisoner in Canada since Nov. 11, 1780. Vol. 26, p. 32; Vol. 74, p. 174; pp. 176; p. 180, 182, 184, 186, 190, and pp. 192.
- (The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Office of the Secretary, Boston, Mass. July 17, 1933: I certify the foregoing to be true abstracts from the record index to the military archives deposited in this office. Witness to the Great Seal of the Commonwealth. F.W. Cook, Secretary of the Commonwealth (Great Seal.)

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In re. Holden family: following material taken from Aunt Lulu Wilson's Holden genealogy book (Randolph, at Mrs. Stanley Chamberlin's).

1. Richard Holden: Early settler, Groton, Mass., b. 1609; son of Wm. Holden of Lindsey, County Suffolk, England. In 1640 or 1641, he married Martha Foddick, daughter of Stephen Foddick. She was b. in England, 1620, died Dec. 6, 1681, at Watertown, Mass. Richard died, Groton, Mass., Mar. 1695.
2. Justinian Holden b. 1644 Watertown, Mass., son of Richard and Martha. Married twice, 2nd wife, Susannah Dutton of Billerica, Mass. He died about 1699.
3. James Holden, b. 1685, d. 1766, in the Rutland District near Worcester. Son of Justinian and Susannah. Married, at Charlestown, Mass., Hannah Adams, on Feb. 17 1708. Hannah Adams died 1769 (See below in re. Hannah Adams).
4. Aaron Holden, b. Jan. 26, 1731 or 1732, at Worcester. Died Barre, Sept. 30, 1802. Son of James and Hannah Adams Holden. He married Anne Clarke, b. Aug. 19, 1732, at Medfield, Mass. She died, Nov. 26, 1818. Their daughter, Rachel Holden married Samuel Wilson of Bethel, Vermont.

(This Hannah Adams, (Aaron's mother) was the daughter of John Adams who was the son of Henry Adams of Braintree, Mass. Henry Adams was born in Minnewater, Somerset County, England, Dec. 4, 1622 and came to New England with his father in 1640; he died 1705, in Braintree. Note: John Adams, 2nd President of the United States, was born Braintree, Mass., Oct. 30, 1735; he was the great-grandson of Henry Adams, Puritan, who came from England to Mass. in 1640; now Aaron Holden was the great-grandson of Henry Adams of Braintree. So President John Adams and Aaron Holden were 2nd cousins. So this makes H.F.W.'s generation 2nd cousins of John Adams, five times removed! (See Jay Wilson's Scrapbook, No. 3, for this material.)

Appendix B:: Samuel Chase served as a private in the New Hampshire militia in Revolutionary War. Although about 70 years of age, he went with the regiment of his son, Jonathan Chase, to Saratoga and to Bennington, in autumn of 1777. (Jay's Scrapbook, No. 1, p. 89.)

Concerning military service of Stephen Child, grandfather of Laura Child who married J. Jay Wilson: Stephen Child served as a Corporal, New Hampshire militia. entered army of the U.S., May 7, 1777; marched from Cornish, N.H. under Col. Jonathan Chase to Ticonderoga, N.Y., 90 miles, to reinforce the Northern Continental Army under Gen. Gates. Was discharged June 18, 1777 after serving one month and 12 days; enlisted again Sept. 23, 1777, under Col. Chase and marched to Saratoga, N.Y., rendering service of one month and one day. He was present at the surrender of Burgoyne, Oct. 17, 1777, at Saratoga. (From Jay's Scrapbook, No. 1, p. 89.)

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